

Lowton East Neighbourhood Development Forum (LENDF)

Minutes to the meeting held on Monday 11th December 2017 at Lowton Social Club.

<http://www.lendf.co.uk>

Chairman – Ed Thwaite

Present: Cllr. James Grundy, Cllr. Kath Houlton, Cllr. Ed Houlton

No. of attendees – 33

1. Minutes from the last meeting

Not read out at meeting but copies have been sent out by email and posted onto Facebook.

2. St. Helens Council

St Helens Council will not be presenting their final development plan until summer 2018, this will include Parkside and Haydock.

3. Housing Development

Moss Estates have had their latest submission for houses on Sandy Lane refused. Wigan Metro refused the application on the grounds of building on green belt land.

4. Winwick Lane

A weight limit will be put on Winwick Lane, on both carriage lanes, from Lane Head to Dolly's Bridge. Wigan Metro will enforce the limit.

5. Bellway and Persimmion Housing Sites

A site visit was arranged with Cllr. J Grundy, local residents, and Karl Battersby (Wigan Council). Mr Battersby didn't appear but sent a delegation of Officers in his absence. On both sites there have been serious violations regarding site equipment e.g. driving on footpaths, mud on roads and paths, double parking, vehicle obstructions and early starting of works traffic (6:45am). It was agreed that on the Persimmion site, due to the advanced stage of construction, that all traffic should be contained on the site and all vehicle turnings should be on the site. Also, a wheel wash was to be constructed on the site. It was also agreed that on the Bellway site the same conditions would apply in the near future. With regard to other sites closing over the Christmas period, this information is not to hand.

6. Oaklands House

The 'For Sale' sign has been removed from the site. No news as to whether the house has been sold.

7. The Mystery of Byrom Woods

Greenheart was the name given by Wigan Borough to land given over to free access to the countryside. Byrom Woods is a part of the Greenheart project.

Following a presentation by HS2 the line was rerouted closer to Scott Road. The new HS2 maps were showing the line to be running below Byrom Woods. On investigation this was proved incorrect and the line would completely destroy the woodlands

So why was HS2 Map incorrect?

The woods were created in 2002 and are owned by the Forestry Commission. From its creation until 2011 the area is shown as an open access area on all OS Maps and in addition the woods were listed in the Greenheart mapping at Wigan Council.

7th July 2011 open report to Wigan Cabinet proposing that Wigan respond to HS2 consultation by urging that the route goes through Wigan Borough (officer Mike Warden).

This is around the same time that Byrom Woods was removed from the OS Maps. All maps since 2011 don't show the Woods.

We have also found out that it was removed from Greenheart mapping by Wigan Council. When asked why, it was stated that it was a quieter site. This is not so, it is very well used. However, it was reinstated in the Greenheart map after our Public Inquiry.

So how can a local public open space be removed from OS Maps and Greenheart without any consultation. The Forestry Commission haven't done it and are unaware of what's happened. HS2 have now misinformed the people of Lowton and we were not aware that they would be destroying the Woods and a public facility.

We need to know which organisation asked for the area of open access land to be removed from paper mapping. When was it requested? When was the online version amended? And why was an up-to-date map not used for public consultation?

Our local M.P. has been informed and asked to investigate.

8. Rail Travel

Our local M.P (Jo Platt) believes that the Leigh area gets a raw deal regarding rail travel. The railway 10 year Forward Plan is due out next year (2018). Maybe it will show some intention to open Kenyon Junction. Others asked could the VI bus route be extended beyond Leigh to include Lowton.

9. Next Meeting

Monday 15th January 2018.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!